Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1655 - May 1 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Here's our Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, who says that donations are needed right now:

--

Yep, it's me. A.J. And if I'm here you likely suspect that once again the Amateur Radio Newsline is in desperate need of your financial support. And you would be right.

If you look back, you will notice that the last time you heard me soliciting donations was way back in 2008. Thanks to your generosity last year the need for me to make these announcements was minimal.

We know you prefer to hear the news rather than having to listen to these announcements and we agree. But over the past few months almost all donations have ceased so here we are with our annual spring pitch.

As we have said so many times before, it takes money to gather the news. It takes money to assemble a newscast and it takes money to bring it to you. And as the price of goods and services continue to increase, so do our operating costs. The cost of telephone service. The cost of web access. The costs related to hosting our website and providing you with a downloadable FTP of the newscast. The cost of equipment repair and upgrade. In essence, all of the costs involved in bringing you 52 newscasts a year as we have done for almost 31 years.

We do our very best to keep operating expenses to a minimum. Everyone involved in the Amateur Radio Newsline is a volunteer. There is no paid staff.

More important, all of the monies you donate go only toward operating expenses and in supporting the Young Ham of the Year Award. And for you, your donation is tax deductible.

We even make it very easy to donate. If you have web access all you need to do is take your web browser to www.arnewsline.org. Then click on the words "Make a donation" and use your PayPal account or credit card to transfer into ours.

Or you can use the good old method of writing a check and sending it to Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia CA 91066.

Either way, we thank you for your kindness. For your support and for your trust.

OK. Time for me to get back to my desk and back to balancing the books. For the support fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1655 with a release date of Friday, May 1st, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. Police in Indianapolis discover ham radio is more than just a tactical channel and they like it as a hobby. Also, Amateur radio prepares for the Swine Flu, a new group in Europe is formed to Challenge the International Amateur Radio Union as the IARU thanks broadcasters for moving off of 40 meters, and hams in Honolulu get their first ever pro ham radio legislation. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1655 coming your way right now.

**

NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: IMPD HOLD FIRST TEST SESSION

A growing number of police officers in Indianapolis have decided to get their ham radio licenses. This, after being told by their superiors in the department to remove all personal radio gear from patrol vehicles. Now they are discovering that there's more to the hobby than idle chit chat. Some are so impressed that they are even helping to organize training and testing sessions for their fellow officers. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jack Parker, W8ISH, has the latest:

--

As we first reported last February, the Indianapolis Metro Police Department has cracked down on road officers using Amateur Radios without a license. This comes following a complaint filed with the FCC by a local ham.

As a result, the Indianapolis Police Chief ordered all illegal radios removed from police cars until the officers became licensed hams. That forced dozens of Metro officers to race off to the nearest Amateur Radio book store.

Veteran police officer Dewey Runnels passed his test and helped organize a weekday test session for officers working Indy's eastside district. Over sixty officers signed up to take the Technician Class license test.

This called for a response from the ham radio SWAT team. That stands for Swift Working Amateur Testers. VE Dave Wendt-KA9OOH, recruited thirteen volunteer examiners from four Central Indiana counties to handle the overwhelming number of applicants. IMPD provided a training room, the officers lined up, produced an ID and put pen to paper to earn their Tech ticket. The centralized test session allowed officers from three different shifts an opportunity to work the exam into their work schedule.

Of those pre-registered only one third showed up to take the test. Sixty percent of the officers passed and now await their new amateur radio call signs.

Officer Dewey Runnels, KC9PIY, expects future test sessions to be better attended. He is excited about his new privileges and looks forward to a General Class upgrade.

KC9PIY: "I've talked to a couple of guys that have been able to talk
 to
Canada, California and South America and I want to be part of that."

Future weekday test sessions are being scheduled to accommodate the growing number of IMPD officers wishing to earn their Technician Class license.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

--

This footnote: Don't look for these newly licensed police officer hams to be operating while on duty. Indianapolis Metro Police officials have renewed their original VHF radio license. They plan to give road officers at least 10 VHF channels. This, for point-to-point communications using department-approved radios. (W8ISH, ARNewsline(tm))

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS PREPARE FOR THE SWINE FLU PANDEMIC

Ham radio operators involved in emergency communications are making ready in case they are needed if the Swine Flu hits their area. We have more in this report:

--

During the past year, the Health Department in Nevada has discovered the power of amateur radio. This, according to Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, who says that Nevada hams involved in emergency communications have worked 2 major, statewide drills for pandemic point of dispensing of emergency supplies.

The hams passed traffic on how many citizens could be vaccinated over a given period of time. They also supplied information on how much vaccine was available.

Don says that officials were quite impressed with what hams did for them. Especially after their Satellite Phones failed and were unreliable. Simply said, ham radio had the ability to continue communications when the conventional methods of communicating shut down.

During the drills, the point of dispensing, better known by the acronym POD's were real, and open to the public, giving free flu shots.

Don says that it was quite amazing how the Nevada ham community did this only last year. Now, the real deal seems to be knocking on our door.

Carlson says that Nevada hams have already been asked to be on standby in case their services are needed should there be a major Swine Flu outbreak. He tells Newsline that they are well trained and prepared..

In addition to reporting for Newsline, Don Carlson, KQ6FM, also serves as the Nevada Section Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer. The reason he is not here doing this report himself is that ironically, he is involved in this weekend's Emcommwest Pacificon gathering in Reno. Needless to say that preparing for the Swine Flu pandemic will be a hot button topic to be discussed at this year's gathering.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

More on this in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM POLITICS: NEW EURAO ORGANIZATION SEEN AS CHALLENGE TO IARU

A world challenge to the political dominance International Amateur Radio Union has, has been established in Europe. The challenge is from a group calling itself EURAO. That's an acronym for the European Radio Amateurs' Organization. It's a group that seems to have taken aim at the IARU's strict policy of having only one national society represent any given nation's ham radio community to the rest of the world.

EURAO says that its prime goal is to unite all amateur radio associations in Europe and beyond. According to its website, the original idea, proposed by F5RCS in 2005, is to provide an opportunity to combine efforts of all those radio amateurs' associations that EURAO claims that the IARU does not support. This, due to what EURAO calls International Amateur Radio Union rigid structure that prevents admitting more than one association per country which EURAO says amounts to a true monopoly. One more concerned with their own income than promoting the interests of Amateur Radio.

Whether or not that claim has any validity is obviously open to debate. That said, it's well established that anyone or any group that has
tried to challenge any national ham radio society has quickly found out that it takes massive amounts of money to do so. In our lifetime here in the United States there have been many challenges to the American Radio Relay League's dominance as the single national society representing all U.S. radio amateurs whether or not they are dues paying members. This has included the abortive Institute of Amateur Radio founded in the early 1960's as an alternative to the ARRL by 73 Magazine Editor Wayne Green, W2NSD. It did not last very long nor have any other attempts to replace the ARRL with a different group. Every one of the challenges has failed, mainly due to lack of funding.

What quickly becomes apparent is that even with web exposure, it still costs tens of millions of dollars -- or Euro's in the case of EURAO's -- to mount and run the kind of campaign needed to reach the ham radio masses. It's the ham in the street whose support is required and simply establishing a website is not going to reach all that many.

You can read more about the European Radio Amateurs' Organization at www.eurao.org/en/node/54
(Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: IARU THANKS BROADCASTERS FOR SWIFT MOVE OFF 40

Speaking about the International Amateur Radio Union, it has thanked shortwave broadcasters for achieving a high degree of migration away from the now-worldwide Amateur-exclusive band of 7100 to 7200 kHz. This, by the mandated March 29th date.

IARU Secretary Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, has been quick to acknowledge the compliance by most broadcasters to QSY out of that band, as required by a decision of the World Radio Conference in 2003. In a statement, Sumner thanked the international broadcast community for its compliance with the changeover schedule. He also noted that he is certain that the few remaining broadcast transmitters operating on 7200 kHz and below will be addressed in the coming weeks.

Sumner's letter of appreciation was sent to the High Frequency Coordination Conference. That group represents 60 organizations from more than 30 countries accounting for up to 80% of the global output of short wave broadcasting.

The departure of broadcasting from this spectrum has resulted in an enormous improvement in the usefulness of 40 meters for amateur radio communication. (VK3PC)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N4MWA repeater serving the community of Phelps, Kentucky.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: HONLOULU HAMS WIN MOBILE RADIO EXEMPTION

A major victory for hams in Honolulu, Hawaii. Bill 4, the pro-ham radio mobile cellular phone legislation for the City and County of Honolulu passed Third Reading on April 22nd, and has passed out of the Council.

The measure includes a full exemption for radio amateurs from the effects of this bill. This bill is significant because it addresses the issue of traffic safety, but does not diminish the role of amateur radio in the course of the legislation. It's also believed to be the first legislation in Hawaii that fully supports amateur radio. The mayor will sign this bill into law shortly, with an effective date will be July 1st.

But the fight is not over yet. The Hawaii County Council is currently working with a draft equivalent to Bill 4, but so far lacks the exemption for amateur radio. According to Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, the next few weeks will be important for the Big Island for testimony and education of their Council members.

Updates will be posted on this web page: http://www.qsl. net/ah6rh/ am-radio/ cellular- phone-ordinance. html (AH6RH, KH6QX)

**

RADIO LAW: SUPREME COURT SAYS NO MORE FLEETING DIRTY WORDS CAN BE BROADCAST

Using dirty words in any broadcast is illegal. So says the Supreme Court in its Tuesday, April 28th narrow ruling in favor of a government policy. One that threatens broadcasters with fines over the use of even a single curse word on any broadcast.

By a 5 to 4 vote, the court threw out an earlier decision by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that had found in favor of a Fox Television-led challenge to the FCC policy. That court returned the case to the agency for what it had termed as a reasoned analysis of its tougher line on indecency. Instead, the FCC took the matter to the Supreme Court.

By way of background, the FCC changed its long standing policy after it concluded that an unofficial one free expletive rule did not make sense. This, in the context of keeping the air waves free of indecency when children are likely to be watching television. This, based on a Supreme Court decision some ruled 31 years ago that determined that the FCC could ban curse words from the airwaves between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. local time in any given broadcast market.

The events leading to this latest change involved a number of live broadcasts of awards shows in which celebrities let slip a few variations of certain dirty words. So-called fleeting expletives were not treated as indecent before then. The Fox Television Stations and other networks challenged the policy after the FCC singled out use of the words by entertainers Bono, Cher and Nicole Richie during awards programs that aired in 2002 and 2003.

What, if anything, this ruling might mean to personal radio users at this time is unclear. In the short term, likely nothing.

However, the FCC has been known to use legal findings in one service as basis to enforce rules in another. It has successfully denied license renewals in several services based on violations in others and has used cross service violations to successfully lift all licenses in some cases. That's even happened in ham radio.

Now, with so many scanner radios out there in households with young children, there is the possibility, albeit a remote one, that enough complaints reaching the FCC about a foul mouthed ham could bring some enforcement action based on this ruling regarding broadcast indecency into play. (Adapted from Media Network and various published reports.)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: FDARA ASKED TO ASSIST WITH LOCAL AIRPORT DISASTER DRILL

Members of Iowa's The Fort Dodge Amateur Radio Association will be providing communications for an emergency drill on April 30th. This, after being invited by officials to assist the Fort Dodge Regional Airport by providing a back-up emergency response to the 2009 Fort Dodge Regional Airport Aircraft Disaster Drill.

During the two-hour exercise, all modes and methods of communications will be used. Following demobilization, there will be a meeting with airport, TSA, EMA and city emergency officials. This, to discuss their assessment of all aspects of this emergency preparedness event. (AC0LM)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO SUPPORTS THE 2009 TOUR DE ROUGE BIKE RIDE

Ham radio will be providing communications for the Tour de Rouge bike ride slated for May 3rd to the 8th. This will include groups communicating via the 444.500 WB5ITT Beaumont, Texas repeater, the 147.24 K5ET Crowley, Louisiana and the 145.23 W5GQ Baton Rouge, Louisiana repeaters. All bands from HF through 2 meter SSB will also be used for coordination of this massive, 512 mile event. The ride supports Red Cross chapters along the US Gulf Coast. (WB5ITT)

**

RADIO JUSTICE: NY MAN GETS 5 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SELLING HEZBOLLAH TV IN USA

Remember the case of Javed Iqbal we reported on more than two years ago? He's the 45year old Pakistani citizen living in New York City who was
charged back in 2006 with supporting Hezbollah by importing the signal of the Al Manar and selling it to US customers .

Well, Iqbal quietly plead guilty to the charges last December. Now, he has been sentenced to serve more than five and a half years in prison for the crime that he still says was noting more than a legal way to make a living.

The US Treasury branded Al Manar a terrorist organization in March, 2006, saying it supported Hezbollah's fund raising and recruitment activities. Prosecutors said Iqbal, who moved to the United States more than 26 years ago, provided transmission services to the Beirut-based channel in return for payment between 2005 and 2006. They termed him Hezbollah's "man" in New York City.

But Iqbal's defense lawyer, Joshua Dratel, said his client had no ideological support for Hezbollah. Dratel said that Iqbal sold the channel to make money as part of his satellite television business that also included Christian channels and even some adult entertainment. A second man who worked for the Iqbal's company has also pleaded guilty. (Media Network)

**

THE DTV TRANSITION: 3.8 MILLION STILL NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME

Not everyone is ready for the upcoming United States transition to all digital television and ham radio's assistance is still needed in the public awareness campaign. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, reports:

--

According to the A.C. Neilsen Company, some 3.8 million, or 3.4% of all United States households are still unprepared for the digital television transition slated to take place on June 12th. Geographically, Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the least prepared, with 9.4% having no over-the-air digital reception capability. It's followed by the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and Houston, Texas, each with 6.3% of the citizenry not ready for the transition.

On the other side of the equation, the most digital ready cities appear to be New Haven and Hartford, Connecticut and the Providence to New Bedford region of Rhode Island. Each of these have less than one percent of their citizens unprepared for the digital TV change.

As previously reported, several months ago the FCC requested, through the ARRL, that ham radio operators assist their communities in preparing for the digital television rollout. Many radio clubs across the U.S. have reportedly become involved as advisors in this ongoing public service effort, nationwide.

I'm Jim Meachen. ZL2BHF.

--

Again, the date for the transition to digital television in the United States is June 12th. If your club wants to assist in helping the public to be prepared for the move, please contact the ARRL. (Adapted from a report in B&C and other sources.)

**

RADIO LAW: THE 106.1 MHZ UNLICENSED STATION IN SAN DIEGO

Ever wonder what an unlicensed broadcast station's location and antenna might look like? Well, the 106.1 MHz San Diego area station recently written up in the CGC Communicator apparently used two transmitter sites. The first location was on El Cajon Blvd. The station then seemed to have relocated to Monroe Ave. before going off the air. You can see it all for yourself: http://earthsignals.com/add_CGC/San_Diego_Pirate.htm (CGC)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: ATTENDANCE AT BARCELONA MOBILE PHONE TRADE SHOW DOWN

The softness in the market for new mobile phones showed clearly in a thin array of new product rollouts at the recent Mobile World Congress trade show in Barcelona, Spain. In what little there was, Sony-Ericsson announced its first full touch-screen phone with a 12 megapixel camera running Symbian Foundation S60 software. This is the first non-Nokia phone to use that platform.

Sony-Ericsson also announced a new Walkman phone as well. Meantime, Samsung also renewed its promise to eventually release an Android phone, but wasn't ready to preview a model at the show.

Attendence was down to 49,000 from 55,000 last year with the reason likely the slumping world economy. (Radio News OnLine)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: VE7IYOA CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

The first amateur radio special event station for the International Year of Astronomy has been announced and it is VE7IYOA located in Victoria, British Columbia Canada. VE7IYOA will be active from June 1st to the 30th to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Galileo Galilei's first look at the sky through an optical instrument. This Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher is acclaimed as the father of modern observational astronomy. VE7IYOA has a unique QSL card on offer. (VK3PC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NCDXF ELECTS NEW LEADERS

The NCDXF has new leaders. At its Board of Directors meeting on April 17th, the Northern California DX Foundation elected Bruce Butler, W6OSP, as President and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, as Vice President. Outgoing President Len Geraldi, K6ANP, and Vice President Al Burnham, K6RIM, remain on the board as Directors. Information pertaining to the Northern California DX Foundation is available on-line at www.ncdxf.org (NCDXF)

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: 2009 TAPR/AMSAT BANQUET MAY 15

The third annual joint TAPR and AMSAT Banquet will be held Friday evening, May 15, 2008, during the Dayton Hamvention. The event is slated for the Jefferson Room at the Kohler Presidential Banquet Center, in Kettering, Ohio. Reservations are required and must be made by Monday, May 11th. For additional information contact the AMSAT office by e-mail to martha (at) amsat (dot) org. (ANS)

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: RTTY FORUM TO DISCUSS CONTEST PARTICIPATOPN

This year's Dayton Hamvention RTTY forum will feature a panel discussion on how best to accommodate the diversity of participants in RTTY contests. Speakers scheduled to appear include K5DU, K4GMH, W2QO, and K4IA. Each will give a short presentation of their perspective on participant diversity in these contests and then be available to address questions and comments from the audience. The forum takes place in Meeting Room 3 from 12:20 to 1 PM local time on Saturday, May 16th. (RTTY Reflector)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: LIVE FROM HAMVENTION TO YOUR HAMSHACK

Hams who cannot attend Hamvention 2009 can still be there vicariously thanks to Tom Medlin, W5KUB. For the 7th-year-running, Tom will be streaming live video and audio of this "show of shows" to radio amateurs worldwide.

Tom's transmissions will go live Wednesday May 13 at 1300GMT for his 500 mile drive to the Hara Arena. He will then be streaming on Thursday as he sets up in the Flea Market and then for the entire Hamvention. The broadcast will end as he gets back home to Memphis, Tennessee, on Sunday night.

In addition to the video, the site has a chat room where you can talk with other hams around the world. And you will find it all on-line, Hamvention weekend at www.w5kub.com. (W5KUB)

**

PROPAGATION NEWS: NEW SOLAR CYCLE 24 WEBSITE

Wondering where Solar Cycle 24 is? So is Kevin Gibeau ,VE3EN, in Ontario, Canada. And now Kevin has established a web site to track the ever so slowly emerging solar cycle.

The information on this site updates every two minutes and is gathered from a wide range of sources. This saves you the trouble of surfing the web to find all the data yourself. Instead, you need only take your web browser to www.solarcycle24.com to find it all. (Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW APRS SATELLITES BEING PLANNED

The APRS satellite fleet will be expanded in the not to distant future. Writing from the US Naval Academy Satellite Development Lab, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, the father of APRS, reports on new satellites with the same APRS packet relay capability as currently operated by PCSAT and the ISS that are now in their development stages.

Bruninga says that their design will use the new Byonics all-on-a-board Packet TNC/Radio/Telemetry system. This makes it possible to build a packet satellite out of a single 3.4" square board. 5 rechargeable batteries is all you need to power this tiny APRS satellite.

No launch dates have been announced at this time. (WB4APR)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CELEBRATING THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

A group of radio amateurs are planning a commemorative event to mark this year's 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Called 'Echoes of Apollo,' various activities are planned around June and July.

The organizers of the event are reportedly negotiating with some of the world's largest and most capable amateur radio moon-bounce stations, and also some radio deep space radio facilities. The idea is to hook-up people from various locations using moon-bounce and, if the antennas are large enough, possibly achieving near broadcast quality audio. You might say, a kind of ï¿½Back-to-the-Moon' day.

Also planned is an HF radio weekend, with HF stations set up near sites that took part in the original support for the Apollo 11 mission. The EME event is planned for the 27th of June and the HF event is planned for July 18th to the 20th. More on this as information becomes available. (WIA News)

**

WORLDBEAT: THE ANSWER IS "BLOWIN' IN THE UK WIND"

The UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has published a report dealing with the effects of interference caused by power generating Wind Farms turbines to Ultra High Frequency and Super High Frequency communications. The report was compiled by ERA Technology and Aegis Systems Ltd. It describes a technical study in which a series of measurements were carried out with regard to the presence of wind turbines near to wireless services.

Some of their findings include the fact that a single turbine can produce measured fades as large as 3 dB for UHF scanning telemetry links and 2 dB for fixed links operating between 1.5 and 18 GHz. This, when the turbine is lying on the transmitter-receiver path. Also established is that a wind farm with seventeen turbines can produce measured fades as large as 10 to 15 dB for 1% of the time when the wind farm is lying on the transmitter-receiver path.

The purpose of the study was to enhance understanding of the effects of wind turbines near to wireless services. The full text of this propagation study and report in PDF Format is available at http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/licensing/classes/fixed/Windfarms/rf_measurement/windfarm_report.pdf
(ANS)

**

WORLDBEAT: FRANCE FAILS TO PASS ENTERTAINMENT ANTI-PIRACY MEASURE

French lawmakers have rejected a bill that would have cut off the Internet connections of people who illegally download music or films. The measure would have also created the world's first government agency to track and punish those who steal music and film on the Internet.

The contested bill had initially passed the lower house of parliament two weeks ago and seemed destined for overwhelming approval by France's legislative body. But very few lawmakers were present for Thursday, April 9th vote to finalize the measure, which was rejected by a vote of 21 to 15.

The music and film industry had supported the bill, aimed at cracking down on illegal downloading. Its critics claimed that it encroached far too much on individual freedoms. (RW)

**

RADIOSPORTS: NEW CONTESTING COMPENDIUM WEBSITE

In radiosports news, Pete Smith, N4ZR, has announced that the new Contesting Compendium website is now up-and-running. The objective of this Web page is to make it a one-stop resource source for information on contesting. You can find it on-line at http://wiki.contesting.com (N4ZR)

**

RADIOSPORTS: 2008 JUNE VHF QSO PARTY CERTS MAILED OUT

Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the ARRL's Contest Branch Manager says that certificates for the 2008 June VHF QSO Party have been mailed out. Kutzko also reports that plaques have been ordered and will begin shipping in a few weeks. KX9X says that he will notify the ham community when the plaques go out the door. (KX9X)

**

DX

In DX, listen out for the Greek special event callsign SY2DDAY between June 4th and 7th. It will be on the air to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the greatest landing operation in history during WWII. That, of course, was the Allied-lead Normandy Beach invasion with the participation of seven countries. Greece supplied 2 warships and 4 commercial freighters. QSL this one only direct as instructed on the air.

And W5KDJ, will be active from Madagascar as 5R8KD between from July 1st to the 15th. He will be active on 160 through 6 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign. He is also accepting Logbook to the World and eQSL.

SM1TDE, is planning an operation from Gambia to take place between December 10-31st. More details on this one as they are announced.

The "DX World of Ham Radio" Web page is reporting that H44MY and H44T are once again in the Solomon Islands staying in Honiara. Mike has indicated that there are no plans to be immediately active so keep an ear open for both these calls to show up with little or no notice.

Lastly, JA1DOT, is now active from Bhutan as A52DT. He will be there until May 6th on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign. Updates will be posted on the Nippon DX Association's web page.

(Above from various DX newsletters and news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: A TESTAMENT TO SAMUEL F.B. MORSE

Lastly, a belated 218th Happy Birthday to the inventor of telegraph communications, Samuel F.B. Morse.

Morse was born on April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, Massachusetts. 53 years later on May 24th 1844, it was Morse who sent the words "What hath God wrought" by telegraph from Washington, D.C to Baltimore, Maryland. That single transmission ushered in a new era in telecommunications and set the stage for the vast global data and voice networks that exist today.

But Morse's influence on communications appears to be in its sunset days. His vision of a vast wired community based on dots and dashes did emerge to some degree but has since given way to wireless communications, with the telegraph considered an anachronism of another century long past.

Most services have phased out the use of the Morse Code having replaced it with automated digital communications. Even the longtime distress monitoring for the three letters SOS is being phased out world-wide in favor of an automated, satellite-based search and rescue service.

Very soon it will only be the current generation of ham radio operators who will likely be using Morse's simple, but elegant communications system and it's not known if the next generation of ham radio operators will want to carry this nostalgia and legacy on. Let's hope they do because it would be
a shame to see the contributions of the great Samel F.B. Morse forgotten with the sands of time.

By the way, the Google search engine did its share in celebrating. On April 27th it featured some Morse Code right on its front page. (ARNewsline(tm) from various sources.)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our email address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only
official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org. Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2009. All rights reserved.